

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BAMA KO 03303 161826Z

13

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15

STR-04 CEA-01 IGA-02 /090 W
----- 019527

R 161700Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BAMA KO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4716

INFO AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAMA KO 3303

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD MR ML NG UV US

SUBJECT: REVERSE PREFERENCES

REF: (A) STATE 223370, (B) STATE 210467, (C) STATE 204117,
(D) BAMA KO 2248 (NOTAL)

1. THIS EMBASSY HAS TWICE DISCUSSED REVERSE PREFERENCES WITH GOM. LAST JUNE, WHEN THE QUESTION AROSE DURING A CONVERSATION ON ANOTHER SUBJECT (REF D), THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COOPERATION, SEYDOU TRAORE, STOUTLY DEFENDED MALI'S DECISION TO MAINTAIN REVERSE PREFERENCES. YET, WHEN, ON RECENT INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT (REF C), EMBOFF RAISED THE MATTER AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY SEPTEMBER 14, THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, MUSTAPHA DEME, DENIED THAT MALI ACCORDS REVERSE PREFERENCES.

2. DEME SAID THAT THE GOM HAS BEEN STEADILY RAISING TAX RATES ON EC GOODS SINCE SIGNING THE LOME CONVEN-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BAMA KO 03303 161826Z

TION. RATES ON EC GOODS ARE NOW HIGHER THAN ON

SIMILAR PRODUCTS FROM ADJOINING COUNTRIES. HE DOUBTED THAT RATES FOR EC EXPORTS WERE LOWER THAN FOR US EXPORTS. AS A MATTER OF POLICY, MALI WANTED TO AVOID ANY APPEARANCE OF BEING UNDER COLONIAL INFLUENCE.

3. DEME CONCEDED, HOWEVER, THE CUSTOMS OFFICE IS IN A "MESS" AND THAT IMPORT TAXES ARE NOT UNIFORMLY APPLIED. FURTHERMORE, THERE MIGHT BE A DIFFERENCE IN VALUATION ON EXPORT DOCUMENTS WHICH COULD CREATE AN IMPRESSION OF PREFERENTIAL TAX RATES. APART FROM THESE "TECHNICAL QUESTIONS" SAID DEME, THERE WAS NO DISCRIMINATION AGAINST US GOODS.

4. COMMENT: IF MALI HAS INDEED INFORMED THE EC (REF B PARA 2) THAT IT WILL MAINTAIN REVERSE PREFERENCES AND IS, AT THE SAME TIME, RAISING TAX RATES ON EC GOODS, THERE IS AN OBVIOUS CONTRADICTION. ONE THING IS CLEAR: DEME IS QUITE CORRECT IN HIS DESCRIPTION OF THE CUSTOMS OFFICE. CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION IS CORRUPT. IN ADDITION, REGULATIONS CHANGE FASTER THAN CUSTOMS OFFICERS CAN APPLY THEM. FALSE INVOICING AND OTHER KINDS OF FRAUD ARE COMMON. IT MAY TAKE SOME TIME TO DETERMINE IF, IN THE APPLICATION OF TAX REGULATIONS, MALI IS STILL ACCORDING EC EXPORTS ANY KIND OF PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT. THIS EMBASSY WILL PURSUE THE MATTER.
DAWKINS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, ECONOMIC COOPERATION, PREFERENTIAL TARIFFS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BAMAKO03303
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760350-1275
From: BAMAKO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760955/aaaabuwo.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 223370, 76 STATE 210467, 76 STATE 204117, 76 BAMAKO 2248
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <06 APR 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REVERSE PREFERENCES
TAGS: ETRD, MR, ML, NG, UV, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006